

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4676

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

USMISSION NATO

CINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST

USNMR SHAPE

CINCUSNAVEUR

CINCUSAFAE-IN

CINCUSAFAE-INCFR

HQ USEUCOM

CINCUSAREUR

COMSIXTHFLT

FOSIF ROTA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PLOS, TU, GR

SUBJ: THE AEGEAN DISPUTE

1. RESPONDING TO OPPOSITION LEADER ECEVIT'S CRITICISM OF
HIS STATEMENT THAT THE GREEK ISLANDS SHOULD HENCEFORTH BE
REFERRED TO AS THE "AEGEAN ISLANDS," PRIMIN DEMIREL TOLD
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REPORTERS AUGUST 22, "IS IT A MISTAKE TO SAY 'AEGEAN

ISLANDS?" IF THEY ARGUE IN THENS, LET THEM. WHO IS ARGUING IN TURKEY? NO ONE IN TURKEY HAS THE RIGHT TO CALL THE AEGEAN ISLANDS ANYTHING ELSE." SAYING THAT HE DID NOT REGARD IT AS COHERENT TO ASSOCIATE USE OF THE TERM "AEGEAN ISLANDS" WITH CONQUEST, DEMIREL ADDED THAT IF THERE IS ANYONE IN TURKEY WHO WANTS HIM TO CALL THE ISLANDS SOMETHING ELSE, "SHAME ON HIM." DEMIREL VOWED TO CONTINUE USING THE PHRASE.

2. MILLIYET'S ABDI IPEKCI IN AN EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW QUOTES DEMIREL (AUGUST 23) AS SAYING THAT IN USING THE TERM "AEGEAN ISLANDS," "THERE IS NO FRONTIER CORRECTION SIGNIFICANCE IN THIS STATEMENT." HE NOTED, HOWEVER, THAT " GREECE TOOK THESE ISLANDS WITH THE LAUSANNE AND PARIS TREATIES. SO SHE HAS TO OBSERVE THE PROVISIONS OF THESE TREATIES. THIS IS BECAUSE ONE OF THE PROVISIONS OF THESE TREATIES IS THAT THESE ISLANDS WILL BE GIVEN TO GREECE...THERE IS ANOTHER PROVISION: THE DEMILITARIZATION OF THE ISLANDS. THESE PROVISIONS SHOULD BE TREATED AS A WHOLE, THESE ISLANDS CANNOT REMAIN ARMED. THAT IS CATEGORIC."

3. NOTING PRESS REPROTS OF GREEK PRIMIN CARAMANLIS'S WILLINGNESS TO HAVE THE AEGEAN ISSUE DISCUSSED AT ANY LEVEL, DEMIREL REPEATED AUGUST 21 THAT THE TURKS ARE IN FAVAOR OF SETTLING THE DISPUTE THROUGH TALKS, BUT STATED THAT TOP-LEVEL TALKS DO MORE HARM THAN GOOD UNLESS THOROUGHLY PREPARED IN ADVANCE.

4. IN FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE AUGUST 22, MASS-CIRCULATION HURRIYET CITED UNNAMED GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AS SAYING THAT IF THE GREEKS WILL NOT KEEP THEIR AGREEMENTS WITH REGARD TO DEMILITARIZING THE ISLANDS, THERE IS NO POINT IN SIGNING FURTHER AGREEMENTS: NO HIGH-LEVEL TALKS WOULD BE POSSIBLE UNTIL AFTER THE ISLANDS ARE DEMILITARIZED, ACCORDING TO THE ARTICLE.

5. AUGUST 23 FRONT-PAGE ARTICLE IN HURRIYET REPEATED THE SAME THEME, BUT HIS TIME BANNER HEADLINE READ, "WE WILL SETTLE THE ISLANDS QUESTION OURSELVES," WITH SUB-HEADING READING, "IF THE DISARMAMENT OF THE AEGEAN ISLANDS REMAINS DELAYED, WE WILL NOT HOLD DISCUSSIONS WITH ANYONE."

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Message Attributes

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